

Serial No.: 10/634,913
Art Unit: 3617
Examiner: AVILA, Stephen P.
Page 9 of 11

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 14 and 26 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-17, 21-24 and 26-34 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In regard to Rejection of Claims 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Hayes, U.S. Patent No. 3,105,453. The Applicant submits that this rejection has been addressed and overcome by the present amendment.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following step of claim 14 as amended:

sensing a direction of the horizontal component of the pulling force;

The Applicant respectfully submits that at least the above step of claim 14 is not taught by Hayes.

Referring to lines 10-12 of column 1 of Hayes, Hayes relates to "a method for positioning a mother ship with relation to a submarine vehicle or operator". Referring in particular to lines 47-48 of column 2 of Hayes, this is achieved by providing a tiltmeter 16 that detects a change in the deflection of the control line 15 "in the vertical planes that are oriented with the longitudinal and athwartships axes of the mother ship 10". A tiltmeter as described by Hayes (and by its nature) is intended to detect a vertical angular deflection of a force or body and not a horizontal deflection. Hayes therefore does not teach sensing a direction of a horizontal component of a pulling force. As such, Hayes does not teach all of the steps of claim 14 as amended, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 14 and claim 15 depending therefrom.

Serial No.: 10/634,913
Art Unit: 3617
Examiner: AVILA, Stephen P.
Page 10 of 11

In regard to Objection to Claims 16 and 17

The Examiner has objected to claims 16 and 17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, and has indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As a result of the present amendments, the Applicant believes that claim 14 is now in allowable form. As such, the Applicant submits that the Examiner's objection to claims 16 and 17 depending therefrom has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In regard to Rejection of Claim 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Olivier, U.S. Patent No. 6,016,286.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following element of claim 26 as amended:

a tow rope receiving portion connected to the rotatable portion
of the shaft so as to be rotatable therewith;

The Applicant respectfully submits that at least the above element of claim 26 as amended is not taught by Olivier.

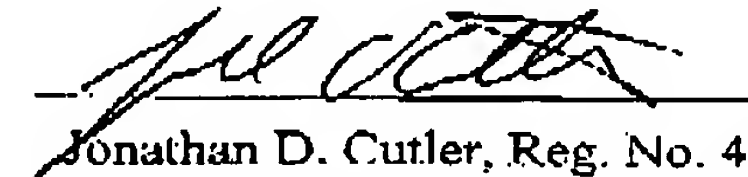
Referring to the rejection, the Examiner has stated that "Olivier et al disclose the claimed structure including a pole with a shaft 145 having a portion that is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the shaft, a tow rope receiving portion 20 connected to the shaft via 110, 120". It is apparent from Figure 3 and lines 15-22 of column 5 of Oliver that the connectors 20 of Oliver that receive the cable 10 are not connected to the drive shaft 145 so as to be rotatable therewith. Instead, the connectors 20 are fixed to the body 110. The drive shaft 145 is rotated relative to the body 110 by the wing actuator assembly 150 located in the body 110, and therefore the connectors 20 cannot rotate with the drive shaft 145. Therefore, Olivier does not teach a tow rope receiving portion connected to the rotatable portion of a shaft so as to be rotatable therewith. As such, Olivier does not teach all of the elements of claim 26 as amended. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 26.

Serial No.: 10/634,913
Art Unit: 3617
Examiner: AVILA, Stephen P.
Page 11 of 11

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in a better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan D. Cutler, Reg. No. 40,576
OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP
Attorneys for the Applicant

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OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière St. West
Suite 2100
Montréal, Québec H3B 4W5
Canada

Tel. (514) 904-5624
Fax. (514) 904-8101